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SUPERSTITIONS FROM LOUISIANA.

THE following items of superstition have been obtained from negro informants ; they include, as will be observed, many which are universal among white people also, and have been recorded in collections : —

1. If one plants a cedar-tree, he will die when the tree is large enough to shade a grave.
2. To sweep out a room after dark will cause some of the family to leave home.
3. If a child sweeps the floor, a stranger will come.
4. If a garment is cut on Friday, it must be finished the same day or its owner will not live to wear it out.
5. It is bad luck to start on a journey or to make a move on Friday.
6. It is bad luck to move a cat.
7. It is good luck to put on a garment, accidentally, wrong side out.
8. To find a pin with the point towards you gives good luck : the other way, bad luck.
9. If friends use the same towel at once, their friendship will be broken.
10. "Wash together, friends forever."
11. If a bird puts one's hair in her nest, that person will suffer from headache while the bird is sitting.
12. If one feels a breath of warm air, it comes from a ghost. Turn the pocket wrong side out and the spirit does no harm.
13. A rooster's crowing at the front door brings company.
14. Breaking a mirror means seven years' bad luck.
15. If a girl spills dish-water, she will lose her sweetheart.
16. If a baby is allowed to look in a mirror, it will be cross-eyed.
17. If an empty cradle is rocked, the baby will die.
18. Rocking an empty chair will cause a death in the family.
19. If one sleeps with his head to the foot of the bed, he will soon be carried from the house feet foremost.
20. If a screech-owl is heard near the house of a sick person, it is a sure sign of death.
21. If a cow is milked on the ground, she will go dry.
22. It is bad luck to pass through the house with a bucket of water on the head.
23. If, when going from home, one hears an owl hoot, he must go back, or evil will befall him.

24. If a rabbit crosses the road in front of one, he must walk backward beyond the place where the rabbit crossed.
25. If one has to turn back after starting, he must make a cross mark to prevent bad luck.
26. If the nose itches, company is coming, and sneezing before breakfast means the same thing.
27. Telling a dream before breakfast makes it come true.
28. Drop a dish-rag, and some one will come home hungry.
29. Spilling salt will bring a family quarrel, unless some of the salt is burned.
30. If the right eye twitches, it means laughter ; the left, tears.
31. If the right palm itches, one shakes hands with a friend ; the left, with a stranger.
32. Transplanting parsley will cause the death of one's children.
33. If one sprinkles mustard seed round his bed, he will not be troubled by witches.
34. Any one who refuses to step over a broom is a witch.
35. It is bad luck to move a broom from one house to another unless the end is sawed off.

George Williamson.

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